

# Virginia Department of Transportation Six-Year Improvement Program

---

Project Requests and Priorities  
**FY 2006 to 2011**



---

September 2004  
**Hampton Roads District**

## **2006 - 2011 Six Year Interstate/Primary Improvement Program**

---

### ***York County Project Requests***

#### **Introduction**

York County is situated on the Virginia Peninsula, has a common border with all Peninsula localities, and is bisected by several of the Peninsula's major traffic arteries, including Interstate 64, Route 17 and Route 171. While York County's population grew by 33% in the 1990s, and now stands at approximately 61,500 residents, the traffic volumes on several segments of these major arterials have increased at an even greater rate. Improvements have not kept pace with needs created by the increased resident and commuter traffic. Particularly troublesome is the Route 17 corridor where increased traffic congestion is being fueled by commuter traffic from north of the York River as well as by its function as York County's "Main Street."

York County is extremely appreciative of the decisions made in 2002 and 2003 by the Commonwealth Transportation Board and VDOT to program \$31 million for improvements on the segment of Route 17 between Routes 630 and 134. The County is disappointed, however, with the decision made in 2004 to eliminate the construction funding (\$10 million) for this much-needed project. While preliminary engineering is continuing, the County urges restoration of the construction funds.

Clearly, the County's highway network is not adequate to accommodate current needs, much less the demands that will be associated with future growth, and York County's project requests have been selected with that in mind.

#### **Summary of Priorities**

##### **Priority 1 – Restoration of construction funding for the Route 17 widening project between Wolftrap Road and Route 134**

In 2002, the Commonwealth Transportation Board honored the County's long-standing requests for funding to accomplish improvements on Route 17 by approving \$17 million to be devoted to the segment between Routes 630 and 134.

In 2003, the project budget was supplemented by an additional \$14 million, bringing the total allocation to \$31,357,000 and fully funding the P.E., Right-of-Way and Construction phases. York County expresses its sincere appreciation for those decisions, particularly given the difficult funding issues that faced the CTB;

however, the County is deeply disappointed that in 2004 the CTB found it necessary to reduce the project allocations by \$10 million (the entire construction phase) due to continuing shrinkage of available funds. The County urges, and respectfully requests, that this funding be restored so that the project can be advertised for construction in 2007/08 when the P.E. and Right-of-Way phases are scheduled to be completed.

**Priority 2 – Route 17 Widening from 4 to 6 lanes between Route 134 and Route 171**

The Board of Supervisors realizes that improvements to Route 17 will have to be funded in phases. However, the County believes that the already programmed project can be made much more effective by supplementing the project budget with an additional \$7 million so that the 6-laning can be extended all the way to Route 171 (i.e., the Route 134 to Route 171 segment). This would allow the project's southern terminus to reach Route 171, a major east-west artery serving the entire Lower Peninsula area.

**Priority 3 – Route 105 Widening between Jefferson Avenue and Route 17**

This project, at one time, had been scheduled for advertisement in October 2002. However, funding shortages caused it to revert to the Development Stage. The Board respectfully requests that it be programmed for Construction by including a sufficient allocation in the 2006-2011 Six-Year Program. This project will significantly improve capacity and safety between Jefferson Avenue and Route 17. In addition, it will complement the planned improvements to Route 17 and to Interstate 64 east of Route 105, and will significantly improve route options for travelers to or from the Middle Peninsula and points north.

**Priority 4 – Interstate 64 Widening to Route 199 (east) Interchange**

This project is a major priority of York County and other jurisdictions on the Virginia Peninsula. Interstate 64 is critical to the region's transportation network, its economy and its residents. It also serves as a vital link to Southside Hampton Roads. The segment between Jefferson Avenue (east) and Route 199 (east) has become a major "choke point" on many days and the need for additional lane capacity is significant.

**Priority 5 – Route 171 Widening from 4 to 6 lanes between Route 17 and Route 134**

This short, 1800-foot segment of Route 171 needs additional lane capacity in order to alleviate congestion that often backs up through its intersections with Routes 17 and 134. It is part of what has become a major east-west corridor on the Lower Peninsula. While recent turning lane improvements have helped to alleviate some of the congestion, additional lane capacity is needed to provide major improvements in traffic flow.

**Priority 6 – Route 171 Widening from 2 to 4 lanes between Route 134 and Poquoson**

This project would improve capacity between Route 134 and the City of Poquoson. Route 171 serves as the main access route to many residential areas in lower York County and it is one of two evacuation routes from the City of Poquoson, and the only route that is relatively safe from tidal flooding.